REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have cancelled originally filed claims 1-19 in favor of new claims 20-25.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

José Carlos Albano Do Amarante et al.

By

Gregory P. LaPointe

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 34,309

Tel: (203) 777-6628

Fax: (203) 865-0297

Date: September 22, 2006

I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 22,